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[REDACTED]

1. Recent Viet Minh efforts to prevent ICC truce team personnel from visiting old French military airfields coincides with significant increase in activities at Bac Mai, Dien Bien Phu, Dong Hoi, Kien An and Lao Kay airfields. Since fall 1954 numbers of German radar-controlled 88mm high-velocity artillery have arrived in Viet Minh areas.

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[REDACTED] Viet Minh have been attending weapons familiarization courses on above 88's. [REDACTED]

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Has [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] any info on any of above airfield developments which indicates possible preparation for military use? Any info on status of "Viet Minh Air Force?" Extent of rehabilitation of airfields in Viet Minh territory?

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2. In past two months, "geologic exploration" in the Tsaidam Basin has reached unusually large proportions. Golmo is now the center of operations for more than 1,000 geologists and large numbers of support personnel. A minimum of several hundred trucks are supporting prospecting activities in the Tsaidam. In past six months, Charkhliq-Golmo road rebuilt,

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Tsinghai-Tibet road under continuous improvement, construction begun on a road from Yumen oil fields across Humboldt Range to Golmo, and new road under construction along northern rim of Tsaidam from Timurlik to Makhai. Chinese have publicized oil exploration but ORR thinks that this is not a major objective as ChiComs could survey oil resources with a fraction of above number of geologists and several aircraft operating from temporary airfields at Yushu and Sining. Precedence for this in Sinkiang where aircraft and fewer geologists worked much larger areas. Has [REDACTED] any info which elaborates on nature of ChiCom undertaking?

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3. Construction of triangular road net in Tibet south and west of Lhasa has made considerable progress recently with most difficult section, Lhasa-Shigatse in advanced stages of construction. Engineering units now engaged in preparatory construction of bridge across Tsangpo 65 miles east of Shigatse. Shigatse-Gyangtse road survey and basic construction far advanced. 3,000 forced laborers of total project force of 6,000 employed on Lhasa-Gyangtse-Yatung main trade route to India via Chumbi valley. Wirelines accompanying road construction. Recent increase in modest gasoline and rice shipments to Tibet from Calcutta attributed to this undertaking.

Some suggestion [REDACTED] that road construction may eventually extend from Shigatse down Arun River valley to Nepal border. Has [REDACTED] any info which elaborates on this ChiCom undertaking?

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